

SEASONS GREETINGS

All of us here at the library wish each and every one of you and your families a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

We have seen some significant changes in the past couple years that makes use of available technology to improve your access to better sounding books and players from the library. We hope that next year we will see a smooth transition with your magazines being sent in the digital format.

Thank you for all your support and understanding as we went through our growing pains this year in getting enough digital materials available for you. We would like to thank the following individuals and institutions that made donations to the library which helped pay for more cartridges to download books to: Clara Nitz, Lorraine Kuhl, Noreen Hinchin, Virginia Decker, Leigh Decker, Janet Pomann, Blue Water Women's League. In memory of Ralph Landenberg donations were sent by Jeff and Patti Bunholz, Carl Gerstenschlager, and Donna Landenberg. A memorial gift was also made by Jane McIntyre for Donald McIntyre.

FREE TO GOOD HOME

We have a Jordy all-in-one low vision system free to a good home. Unfortunately the battery pack that makes the magnifier mobile is missing. You can get a replacement from Enhanced Vision for \$60.00 if you are interested. The unit does work off of AC power. If you would like to adopt this equipment please call us at the library by calling 810-982-3600 or toll free 1-800-272-8570.

We also found Michigan has an AT Xchange website where you can buy, sell and trade assistive technology equipment. Any device that assists a person with a disability can be posted and it only takes a minute to create an account with the exchange at www.atxchange.org. If you don't have internet you can call 800-760-4600 to get more information.

READER ADVISOR NOTES

To help improve the flow of books and requests here are some tips from the staff that have been noted to slow things down in regards to getting items checked in and more books being mailed out.

All calls and correspondence for your library service should be directed to the library that serves you, in this case, St. Clair County LBPH, 210 McMorrان Blvd., Port Huron, MI., 48060-4014 or call 810-982-3600 or toll free 1-800-272-8570.

Put your name and address on envelopes and correspondence. We got an envelope a while back that we think was someone's request list but there was not a return address or name on the envelope and nothing inside the envelope so we didn't know who to contact to let them know we didn't get their correspondence.

Please keep materials as clean as possible and only have one book open at a time. When we have to wait to rematch the proper books with the correct boxes that could mean two books that aren't being sent out to you. When we have to clean off cartridges that have lipstick on them or clean boxes that have had something spilled in or on them causes a delay in getting the items checked in. Also be sure the mailcard is under all 3 tabs on the mailing box so it doesn't fall out.

NLS MAGAZINES AND BOXES

We are in our final stages of verifying that all our library patrons have a digital machine and you should start receiving your audio magazines and Talking Book Topic catalogs on a digital cartridge soon. The NLS has designated that a light blue cartridge mailed in a dark red container will be used for your magazines. If you subscribe to more than one magazine you will have to use the "Bookshelf" feature on your player to access all the magazines on a cartridge.

Please remember that you **MUST** return these cartridges and boxes to the producer after reading them to continue getting you magazines as these cartridges will be erased and reused for future issues.

NEW LOOK FOR BARD

The BARD download site now has over 12,000 Braille books and magazines, 2,000 locally produced Braille, and 2,000 music materials available for download. The Web-Braille download site will be phased out within six months now that all materials will be available in one place. To help lessen the confusion of BARD's new look, here are some tips about navigating and understanding the way the new features on BARD work.

With all the added materials you may want to limit which format(s) are displayed in you searches. To do this, go to the "Update Account Settings" link toward the bottom of the page and use the buttons next to "display format results" to select Audio Only, Braille Only, or Both. The default is set to Both with Braille being listed after the audio in your search results.

Each summary listing will be followed by a link to that title's "Detail Page", which will include the book summary and other information about the item. After the information notes you will find a link to download that title and another link to add the title to a "Wish List". You will also be able to launch additional related searches by clicking on the Author, Subject, Narrator, or Series links from within this detail page.

The Wish List page is a place where you can store and access titles that you want to download at a later date. This list will display the most recently added item at the top of the list showing the summary information and two links, one link to download the item and the other to delete the item from the wish list. Titles will automatically delete themselves from the wish list page once you have downloaded them.

The other new page you will find is called "My Previous Downloads". You can see the titles you have downloaded in the past starting with the item most recently downloaded. This list will also provide the date you downloaded it and a link to download the item again.

BLUE WATER LEAGUE OF THE BLIND

The BWL is a local group that meets on the third Thursday of each month at the Grotto Hall in Port Huron at 6:30 pm. This group is for anyone with visual difficulties and their families. For more information please contact Jerry Clay at 810-329-0124, check out their website at www.bwlblind.com, or look them up on Facebook. Their scheduled events are:

- Dec. 4th, Book Club Meeting at the Carriage House.
- Dec. 20th, meeting cancelled for Christmas.
- Jan. 17th, Elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Delegate. Current members please be sure to vote.

LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

The Low Vision Support Group of River District Hospital continues to meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the St. John's River District Hospital, meeting room 1, from 11 am to 12:30 pm. They offer a variety of speakers and information related to blindness and low vision tips for everyday life. For more information contact Paul Dailer at 810-329-5172.

DISABLED AIR TRAVELERS HOTLINE

The U.S. Dept. of Transportation (DOT) has a toll-free hotline to assist travelers with disabilities. The hotline will provide general information about the rights of air travelers with disabilities and assist with time-sensitive disability-related issues.

Air travelers who experience disability-related problems may call the hotline between 7 am and 11 pm at 1-800-778-4838. In addition to the hotline, each carrier must have a Complaints Resolution Official available at each airport during times of scheduled carrier operations in the event that you believe Air Carrier Access rules have been violated. To get more information online go to www.gimponthego.com.

A BIBLE TO KEEP

Although the checkout time for our digital books (DB's) is only four weeks, which is hardly enough time to get through the Bible, there are a couple of ways you can get a copy of your own to keep.

If you have access to BARD you may download it yourself, the number is DB68777. If you would like to bring in your own flash drive (also known as a USB or Thumb Drive), we can download it for you or any other book that is available from the BARD website.

A third option available to you is to contact Aurora Ministries. For a 15.00 donation to their non-profit organization they will send you the Bible on a cartridge for your NLS player. To contact them call 941-738-3031, visit their website at: <http://audiobiblesfortheblind.org> , or write to Audio Bibles for the Blind, PO Box 621, Bradenton, FL. 34206.

LIBRARY CLOSINGS

The LBPH will be closed the following days:

- Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, for Christmas.
- Monday and Tuesday, December 31st and January 1st for New Years.
- Monday, January 21st for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Monday, February 18th for President's Day.

If you think you will run out of books, please call us a few days before the holiday to be sure we have time to get them into the mail for you.

DISCLAIMER

The LBPH does not endorse any companies, products or services referred to by this newsletter, nor does it validate any websites that may be mentioned. This information is offered as possible solutions for your needs, and it is up to you to research the topics given for accuracy.

St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.
Port Huron, MI., 48060-4014

**FREE
MATTER FOR THE
BLIND OR
HANDICAPPED**

St. Clair County LBPH

Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

SEND MAIL TO:



St. Clair County LBPH
210 McMorran Blvd.

Port Huron, MI 48060-4014

TO CALL US DIAL:



982-3600 Local Calls
1-800-272-8570 Toll Free

TO CALL THE TTY DIAL:



455-0200 Local Calls
1-866-462-2075 Toll Free



TO SEND US A FAX:

810-987-7326

SEND E-MAIL TO:

lbph@sccl.lib.mi.us



VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT:

www.sccl.lib.mi.us/LBPH.aspx

TO VISIT US:



Check in at Circ Desk

Please call ahead

Mon—Fri 8:30 am—5:00 pm